

Governor Jim Doyle
Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening
The Adjutant General
Ed Gleason, Administrator
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WEM Digest

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

Governor announces disaster aid - 12 counties named in declaration

Governor Jim Doyle has announced the federal government has approved Wisconsin's request for federal disaster assistance for individuals and communities hit hard by record rains and flooding that have occurred since May 19.

Individuals and businesses located in Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee and Winnebago Counties are eligible to apply to FEMA for disaster assistance. Individuals may be eligible for grants and low-interest loans. Residents and business owners in the designated counties that sustained damage can begin applying for assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 TTY for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free



Public works crews try to remove debris on the Neosho Dam and open up the gates to help relieve water pressure. Officials have had problems with several dams as a result of the high water levels at various rivers. Photo by Dan Dahlke

telephone numbers will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Under the declaration, disaster relief is also available to local

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Shanks retires after long career in public safety



Wisconsin Emergency Management Deputy Administrator and Bureau Chief of Response and Recovery Section, Al Shanks retired on April 30.

Shanks joined WEM in 1987 as Emergency Police Services Deputy Director. He was named bureau director in 1989. Before joining WEM, Al was Sheriff of Sauk County from 1975 to 1987.

As Director of the Response and Recovery Bureau, he was actively involved in the 16 presidential disaster declarations and one snow

emergency that were declared during his tenure. Al served as State Coordinating Officer at the disaster field offices. In addition, Al played an important role during the enforcement of treaty rights in regards to spear fishing in northern Wisconsin and Weyauwega train derailment in 1996.

In addition, Al responded to thousands of emergency requests through the WEM Duty Officer system. Al's leadership will be missed at WEM. We all wish him well on his retirement!

Helping those in need

Governor Doyle was successful in obtaining federal disaster assistance for 12 counties in southern Wisconsin. Rainfall records were broken or nearly so throughout May with some communities reporting nearly 15 inches. The effect has been swollen rivers, flooded basements, seeping dams, washed out roads and sore backs from sandbagging operations.

Communities came together to help those most in need and now we begin working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration and other local, state and federal agencies in implementing this disaster declaration.

FEMA was very generous and helpful in their efforts to assess the damages during the Preliminary Damage Assessment, and this has been the case for so many years. They are excellent partners when the need is there.



Correctional inmates from Winnebago Correctional Center and the Drug Abuse Correctional Center helped fill sandbags in Green Lake and Winnebago Counties. Photo by Wayne Mixdorf

Period of Increased Alert

Secretary Ridge announced in late May that we are entering a period of increased alert from Memorial Day to next year's Presidential inauguration. As a nation we have already safely witnessed the WWII Memorial dedication, G-8 Summit gathering in Georgia and former President Reagan's state funeral.

Extra precautions were in place for all these events and this will be the mode of operation in the months ahead to ensure those who want to do harm to America are properly checked. It will take the efforts of all levels of the public safety community and our citizenry to ensure we remain ready.

Maj. Gen. Wilkening, Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor says there is no indication of any threats at this time towards Wisconsin but he is asking people remain vigilant and calm and report anything unusual or suspicious to law enforcement.

Maj. Gen. Wilkening pointed out that as a nation we must be prepared but we cannot live our lives in fear. He also added that Wisconsin citizens should continue with any travel plans or events for the summer.

I would also suggest that this would be a good time for people to review their family disaster plans and check their disaster supply kit to make sure it is ready and available for any emergency. Additional information can be found at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website at www.ready.gov.



**Ed Gleason
WEM Administrator**

New Bureau Director

I am pleased to announce that effective June 14, Rob Rude is the new Bureau Director for Response and Recovery. Previously Rob was the Regional Director supervisor and the Northeast Regional Director. Prior to those duties, he was with Wood County Emergency Management. Rob has a wealth of operational experience and an outstanding background in emergency management. He replaces Al Shanks who retired on April 30.

Have a safe and joyous 4th of July!

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governments in Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Vernon and Winnebago Counties. This will help reimburse communities for costs associated with the storm and flood damages.

Under the Public Assistance Program, local communities with eligible damage costs can receive grants that are 75% funded by FEMA and 12.5% by the State of Wisconsin, with the remaining costs the applicant's share. Local governments in the approved counties should contact their county emergency management director for further information on applying for this assistance.

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is working with FEMA and the SBA in implementing this disaster declaration. In recent damage assessments, more than 5,000 homes have been impacted by flooding and \$9 million in damage to public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and dams from a series of storms and heavy rains that began in mid-May.



Major flooding in Cambria on June 9, 2004. Photo by John Leystra



This is one of several homes flooded in Kenosha County following heavy rains and flooding of the Fox River. Kenosha County is one of 12 counties named in the federal disaster declaration which was announced on June 19, 2004. Photo by Ben Schliesman

The record rains caused many rivers and creeks to swell and flood homes and businesses. The Fond du Lac County Emergency Operations Center was moved to another location when floodwaters threatened the facility on June 11.

Additional counties may be added to this declaration as floodwaters recede and more damage is discovered.

In addition to the FEMA and SBA assistance, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority is providing \$2,500 to Fond du Lac County and \$5,000 to Jefferson County. The grants will be used to help with the costs associated with emergency housing for displaced residents associated with the flooding.

Various state agencies have been assisting local communities with the flooding. The Department of Natural Resources Dam Safety Program provided assistance with evaluating and monitoring the

various dams that experienced problems during the high river flowage. Department of Health and Family Services has worked closely with county public health departments in providing information on flood cleanup as well as mental health counseling information.

Members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard were activated and transported 80,000 sandbags from Camp Douglas to Green Lake County. In addition, correctional inmates from the Winnebago County area were used to help fill sandbags in Omro and Berlin.

As the WEM Digest goes to print, the State of Wisconsin and FEMA were establishing a Disaster Field Office in the Madison area. FEMA's Ron Sherman was named Federal Coordinating Officer and WEM's Diane Kleiboer was named State Coordinating Officer for this disaster.

Hard work shows dividends

*By Cullen Peltier
WEMA President*

These days, when I am asked the question, “What do you do for a living?” I no longer have to explain what the role of an emergency manager is in the community.

The majority of the public is well aware of what we do. We can’t take full credit for this recognition. Some of this is due to the current social climate that we live in. However, we can take credit for the fact that we have let our words and actions portray emergency managers as hard working and dedicated professionals.

As I look out the window, the sun is shining bright. That certainly was not the case for much of the month of May and early June. As a result, numerous counties were faced with flooding.

I was in another county emergency manager’s office a day after the county received substantial flooding. I was amazed at the speed and efficiency that this office was dealing with the issue. What was most impressive was that there wasn’t a sense of chaos or tension. This office was going about like this was business as usual. It was also evident from the situation reports that the other counties dealing with the flooding were handling it in a similar matter.

My hat is off to all of the counties who endured the long hours and tense moments as the waters were rising and eventually spilling over their banks. Hopefully, through your hard

work and dedication, your counties will receive assistance to deal with the ramifications of the flooding.

I’d also like to commend the WEMA members who have put in some additional time in the past couple of months to help us out on a couple of projects. First, we are working closely with Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) to update the WEM Certification Program to better prepare emergency management professionals for the ever-changing environment that we work in. We will be presenting a couple of drafts for revisions to the program at our next Board Meeting on June 24 at 10:00 a.m. in Stevens Point.

Additionally, we had a very professional and productive meeting with Office of Justice Assistance on June 1. We expressed some of the concerns



that the directors have concerning the lack of communication between their agency and the counties. They outlined a number of steps that they plan on taking that will improve the communications pipelines and I am confident they will follow through.

Just as one bad apple can spoil the bunch, the actions of a few can speak volumes for others. Thank you to all of you who have put in the long and difficult hours over the past couple of months. You have shed a positive light on the emergency management community in the State of Wisconsin.



Best Wishes!

Two long-time emergency management officials, Taylor County Emergency Management Deputy Director Don Albers and Sheboygan County Emergency Management Director Keith Potter retired this spring. From the left, WEM West Central Regional Director Lois Ristow thanks Don for his 12 years of service in emergency management. On the right, WEM East Central Regional Director Dan Dahlke congratulates Keith on his more than 30 years with Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department.

State tests emergency plans

The State of Wisconsin joined Pierce County, the State of Minnesota and other Minnesota Counties in testing their emergency plans to respond to an incident at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant near Red Wing, MN.

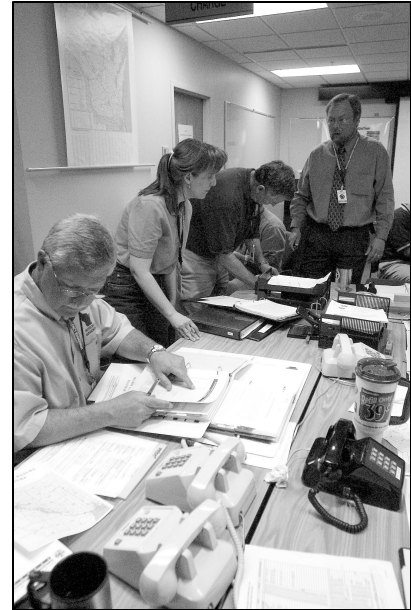
The exercise was held on June 16. Both states and counties involved in the exercise activated their emergency operations centers. In addition, a Joint Public Information Center was open in St. Paul. A public hotline was tested as well.

The exercise involved a radiation leak at the Minnesota plant. To protect the public living in the area,

evacuations were ordered and residents were directed to check in at reception centers.

In addition, the various state agencies worked closely with their counterparts in Minnesota by ordering food holds, livestock advisories, fishing and boating restrictions and other protective actions.

WEM works closely with the Radiation Protection Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services as well as other state and local agencies to ensure public safety during a potential nuclear accident.



Officials with the State of Wisconsin discuss protective actions during the exercise. Photo by Larry Sommers

Response trailers aid animal emergencies

By Donna Gilson
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Two specially designed trailers and an all-terrain vehicle, purchased with 2003 funding aid from the state Office of Justice Assistance, mean the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is equipped to respond to a variety of emergency situations.

The department's Animal Health Division bought two emergency-response trailers, each equipped to allow animal-health responders to function independently and in remote locations for at least the first 48 hours of an emergency. The division also bought a Gator®, an all-terrain vehicle designed to transport equipment and personnel to locations conventional vehicles cannot reach. The Gator is easy to clean and disinfect, a plus with infectious diseases.

One trailer, a 7-foot by 18-foot, has custom features for personnel needs including on-board water and generator, a bed, a wide range of first-responder equipment and some laboratory equipment. The second trailer, a 6-foot by 12-foot, is for hauling heavy and bulky equipment such as generators, high-output lighting, power washers, portable shelters, animal-

handling supplies, and spray units for cleaning and disinfection.

The agriculture department can use the trailers and ATV in plant or pesticide emergencies as well. Counties interested in having the response equipment on site for exercises can contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3232



Many opportunities for WMD training available to responders

*By Lisa Olson-McDonald
WEM Training Assistant*

Wisconsin Emergency Management continues to host a variety of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training opportunities for first responders.

This spring, there were two offerings of the course, "WMD Tactical Operations," taught by staff from Louisiana State University. This course showed tactical police officers how to respond to hostile situations in level C personal protective equipment (PPE). Responding in PPE poses some unique challenges, such as limited visibility, potential for heat related injuries, and maneuvering covertly. The students spent the week-long course learning about the various WMDs, how to detect them, and practiced their tactical skills inside an offense-defense structure at Fort McCoy.

Several students remarked that the information they learned in class will not only benefit them in a WMD event, but also for responding to methamphetamine cases, as they face similar hazards, such as explosions and chemical releases.

Emergency medical service (EMS) professionals also had the opportunity to test their skills in May. "EMS Operations and Planning for WMD," is designed for medics, EMTs, doctors and nurses to recognize signs and symptoms of victims exposed to chemical, biological and radiological attacks.

The three-day course, taught by Texas A&M staff, is a mix of classroom lecture and practical



exercises using a "human patient simulator." The human patient simulator is a \$250,000 computerized mannequin that can simulate a pulse, respiration, and can respond to medical treatment, such as CPR, or the administration of oxygen or intravenous fluids. Look for more offerings of these

courses and others in the 2005 WEM training calendar, which will be distributed this fall, or on the internet at:

http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/html/training_courses-fy2004.html



Planning for the unthinkable

Jefferson County held a table top exercise in March. The scenario was a car bomb exploding near two anhydrous ammonia tanks that contained 171,000 lbs of anhydrous ammonia. The exercise provide participant with a chance to discuss their emergency plans regarding a potential terrorist events. Participating in the tabletop exercise were local law enforcement, fire, ARES/RACES, volunteer agencies, hospital and EMS, local public works, Department of Natural Resources and emergency management.

Photo by Donna Haugom

Ship training for responders

By LTjg Jeff Hieb
USCG Milwaukee

A training to familiarize local, state and federal law enforcement officers and emergency personnel with the unique challenges faced when potentially responding to an incident on board a commercial freighter was held in Sturgeon Bay on May 26.

The Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office (MSO) in Milwaukee conducted the training aboard the *Steam Ship (SS) Edward L. Ryerson*.

The configuration and operations aboard these deep-draft vessels require responders to significantly adapt their normal procedures to the restrictions imposed by the structural confines of a ship and the extreme demands of the marine environment.

More than 40 people representing various local, state and federal agencies attended the training. The day started with classroom

orientation outlining the basics of Great Lakes shipping and deep-draft vessels. In the afternoon, the training venue moved to the *SS Ryerson*. Tours of the ship highlighting critical spaces for control, dangerous areas to be aware of and possible locations for hiding people or contraband.

After the tours, participants had the opportunity to run drills and test specialized equipment aboard the vessel. Small boats from Coast Guard Station Sturgeon Bay were on hand to provide attendees the opportunity to see what it would be like to board the vessel from the water.

The impetus for the training is an upcoming major terrorism/pollution response full-scale exercise sponsored by the Coast Guard. The September exercise in Marinette, WI/Menominee, MI will test and hone the abilities of multiple agencies when responding to a transportation security incident.



"Bugsy" a Brown County Sheriff's Department K-9, successfully navigates the steep expanded metal stairs on board the SS Ryerson. A full scale exercise sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard will be held this fall in Marinette County.

Photo by Mark Ormsby

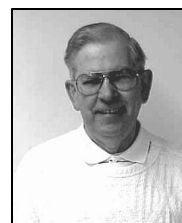


Practice Drill

Chippewa Falls held a training exercise this spring involving an incident of a person with a bomb holding up at a local school. Ironically, the drill was held on the 5th anniversary of the Columbine massacre. The drill date was set for when the school was closed for teacher's in-service day.

Photo by Dennis Brown

In Memoriam



Wisconsin Emergency Management would like to extend its condolences to the family and friends of former Taylor County Emergency Management Director

Roland "Rolly" Sacho who passed away on May 12, 2004



The Protector

This spring a statue honoring police officers was dedicated at the new Polk County Justice Center. The statue was spearheaded by former sheriff's deputy Mike Seversen who was left a quadriplegic after being shot while on duty in 1991. Mike received a small bronze miniature version of the statue when he was in the hospital after the incident by his fellow officers. It meant so much to him that he began eight years ago raising money to build this statue. Area law enforcement departments held bake sales, raffles and other fundraisers to raise the needed funds. Photo by Amy Moertl

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